

Toolkit Tip for Afterschool Teachers: Community Engagement

Recent research on quality afterschool programming indicates that students benefit from involvement with their communities. Not only can students gain by achieving a greater understanding of their own communities, but they can also gain from the expertise of professionals in the community. Benefits can include knowledge of subject area content such as math or science, increased confidence, and an opportunity to explore career interests. Afterschool programs can facilitate engagement by fostering opportunities for students and the community to come together. Examples of such activities include the following: service-learning projects, field trips to museums and technology centers, using professionals in the community for tutoring, and bringing experts into the programs to add enrichment opportunities.

Jordan, C., Parker, J., Donnelly, D., Rudo, Z. (EDs.). (2009). A practioner's guide: Building and managing quality afterschool programs. Austin, TX: SEDL, pp. 55-58.